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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9491-1]

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Availability of 28 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in Louisiana

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability for comment on the administrative record files and the calculations of 28 TMDLs prepared by EPA Region 6.

This notice covers waters in the State of Louisiana's, Lake Pontchartrain Basin that were identified as impaired on the States Section 303(d) list. These TMDLs were completed in response to a court order in the lawsuit styled Sierra Club, et al. v. Clifford, et al., No. 96-0527, (E.D. La.).

DATES: Comments must be submitted in writing to EPA on or before [insert date **45** days after date of Publication in the Federal Register].

ADDRESSES: Comments on the 28 TMDLs should be sent to Diane Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist, Water Quality Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, 1445 Ross Ave., Dallas, TX 75202-2733 or email: smith.diane@epa.gov. For further information, contact Diane Smith at (214) 665-2145 or fax 214.665.7373. The administrative record files for the 28 TMDLs are available for public inspection at this address as well. Documents from the administrative record files may be viewed at

<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6wq/npdes/tmdl/index.htm> , or obtained by calling or writing Ms. Smith at the above address. Please contact Ms. Smith to schedule an inspection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Smith at (214) 665-2145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1996, two Louisiana environmental groups, the Sierra Club and Louisiana Environmental Action Network (plaintiffs), filed a lawsuit in Federal Court against the EPA, styled Sierra Club, et al. v. Clifford, et al., No. 96-0527, (E.D. La.). Among other claims, plaintiffs alleged that EPA failed to establish Louisiana TMDLs in a timely manner. EPA proposes these 28 TMDLs pursuant to a consent decree entered in this lawsuit.

EPA Seeks Comment on 28 TMDLs

By this notice EPA is seeking comment on the following 28 TMDLs for waters located within Louisiana:

<u>Subsegment</u>	<u>Waterbody Name</u>	<u>Pollutant</u>
040102	Comite River – Wilson-Clinton Hwy to entrance of White Bayou (East Baton Rouge Parish) (Scenic)	Fecal Coliform
040103	Comite River – Entrance of White Bayou to Amite River	Fecal Coliform
040201	Bayou Manchac – Headwaters to Amite River	Fecal Coliform
040302	Amite River – LA Hwy 37 to Amite	Fecal Coliform

	River Diversion Canal	
040304	Grays Creek – Headwaters to Amite River	Fecal Coliform
040305	Colyell Creek System (includes Colyell Bay)	Fecal Coliform
040503	Natalbany River – Headwaters to Tickfaw River	Fecal Coliform
040504	Yellow Water River – Origin to Ponchatoula Creek	Fecal Coliform
040505	Ponchatoula Creek and Ponchatoula River	Fecal Coliform
040603	Selsers Creek – Origin to South Slough	Fecal Coliform
040703	Big Creek and Tributaries – Headwaters to confluence with Tangipahoa River	Fecal Coliform
040909	W-14 Main Diversion Canal – from its origin in the north end of the City of Slidell to its junction with Salt Bayou	Fecal Coliform
040910	Salt Bayou – Headwaters to Lake Pontchartrain (Estuarine)	Fecal Coliform
041302	Lake Pontchartrain Drainage Canals	Fecal Coliform
041401	New Orleans East Leveed Waterbodies (Estuarine)	Fecal Coliform

040501	Tickfaw River – From MS State Line to LA Hwy 42 (Scenic)	TDS
040504	Yellow Water River – Origin to Ponchatoula Creek	TDS
040301	Amite River – MS State Line to LA Hwy 37 (Scenic)	TSS
040401	Blind River – From Amite River Diversion Canal to mouth at Lake Maurepas (Scenic)	TSS
040903	Bayou Cane – Headwaters to U. S. Hwy 190 (Scenic)	TSS
040303	Amite River – Amite River Diversion Canal to Lake Maurepas	Mercury
040401	Blind River – From Amite River Diversion Canal to mouth at Lake Maurepas (Scenic)	Mercury
040403	Blind River – Source to confluence with Amite River Diversion Canal (Scenic)	Mercury
040501	Tickfaw River – From MS State Line to LA Hwy 42 (Scenic)	Mercury
040701	Tangipahoa River – MS State Line to Interstate Hwy 1-12 (Scenic)	Mercury
040801	Tchefuncte River and Tributaries - Headwaters to confluence with Bogue	Mercury

Falaya River (Scenic)

040905 Bayou Liberty – Headwaters to LA Hwy 433 Mercury

040906 Bayou Liberty – LA Hwy 433 to confluence Mercury

With Bayou Bonfouca (Estuarine)

EPA requests the public provide to EPA any water quality related data and information that may be relevant to the calculations for the 28 TMDLs. EPA will review all data and information submitted during the public comment period and will revise the TMDLs where appropriate. EPA will then forward the TMDLs to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). The LDEQ will incorporate the TMDLs into its current water quality management plan.

Dated: November 3, 2011

Troy Hill, Acting Director,

Water Quality Protection Division, EPA Region 6.

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